



HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, TYPE B (HIB)

What is *HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, TYPE B* (Hib) disease?

Until recently, Hib was one of the most important causes of serious bacterial infection in young children. Because of the new Hib vaccines, fewer cases of this disease are seen. Hib can cause several diseases such as, meningitis (inflammation of the coverings of the spinal column and brain), blood stream infections, pneumonia, arthritis and infections of other parts of the body.

Who gets Hib disease?

Hib disease is most common in unvaccinated children under the age of three.

How is Hib disease spread?

Hib disease may be spread from person to person through contact with mucus or droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person.

What are the symptoms of Hib disease?

Symptoms include fever, nausea and vomiting, as well as other symptoms depending upon the part of the body affected.

How soon do symptoms appear?

The incubation period for Hib disease is unknown and widely variable.

When and for how long is a person able to spread Hib disease?

The contagious period varies. If an ill person is not treated, Hib disease may last for as long as the bacteria is present in the nose and throat, even after symptoms disappear.

Does past infection with Hib disease make a person immune?

No. Children can get Hib disease more than once. The Hib conjugate vaccine prevents future infections.

What is the treatment for Hib disease?

Doctors prescribe antibiotics to treat Hib infections. Rifampin is used to treat people who have had close, prolonged contact with a person with Hib disease.

What are the possible complications of Hib disease?

Hib disease can appear in several forms. The most common is meningitis. Some children with meningitis may have long lasting neurological problems. In some cases, death may occur.

What can be done to prevent Hib disease?

The Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP) recommends that all infants receive Hib conjugate vaccine beginning at 2 months of age.

PRECAUTIONARY NOTATION REGARDING THE DRUG RIFAMPIN:

Includes, but is not limited to:

- Pregnant women should avoid Rifampin.
- Rifampin may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Rifampin **interacts** with certain HIV/AIDS medications. Persons taking prescription medications for HIV/AIDS must check with their doctor prior to taking Rifampin.

24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

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